

In other words, in my opinion, by adopting Amendment No. 21 while we have granted the right to organize and bargain collectively on a constitutional basis, taken it out of the statutes and elevated it to the constitution, we have not, however, stripped the General Assembly of the power to make reasonable regulations and implementing or restricting in some instances the full exercise of that right, provided that the basic right to bargain and organize collectively is proposed.

For example, can the legislature enact a statute saying once an election is held and the employees have elected their bargaining representative that the results of that election have to stay in effect at least two years?

Or would Amendment No. 21 mean any time the employees wanted a new election to choose a new bargaining agent they would be entitled to do so?

I certainly hope Amendment No. 21 is interpreted reasonably to preserve in the General Assembly the full power to implement and regulate the right granted. On that basis, I will accept Amendment No. 21 that this body has seen fit to enact and on that basis oppose Amendment No. 23 as being unnecessary.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Henderson, do you desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

DELEGATE HENDERSON: I do, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may proceed.

DELEGATE HENDERSON: If I may comment on Delegate Scanlan's argument; although he recognizes the difficulty of adopting Amendment No. 21 without limitation which this amendment seeks to put upon it, he chooses to rely upon the statement of the sponsors of 21 as to what their intention was in recommending it.

Now, that is all very well as far as an act of the legislature is concerned. Even there the courts cannot always follow what the draftsmen and what the legislature say they intend. But when you come to a Constitutional Convention which is brought before the people, it seems very likely to me, and I could cite many cases to prove the point, that what the courts say is that regardless of what the sponsors intended. The people have voted on this thing and the people are governed by the plain meaning of the English language: the words, in other words, and not the gloss put upon them.

So I think we are leaning on a broken reed when we try to confine the courts to what the people say on this floor about what the intention was.

I would greatly prefer to see this spelled out in the constitution. It is a new constitutional right which never existed before and if we adopt it, we should put the proper limitations on it to make it regulated by the legislature.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Koger.

DELEGATE KOGER: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, I would like to oppose this amendment. I am an insurance man and we have what is known as an Independent Agent's Association of Baltimore City, and we are not regulated by the legislature. The Bar Association is an organization of lawyers and they are not regulated by the legislature and I do not believe that to give the state employees a right to organize and bargain and then to turn around and give away the regulation and control of it to anyone, would be of any value to the people who are trying to organize and regulate themselves.

Therefore, I would be opposed to it as I would be opposed to any organization who would be trying to develop themselves by trying to organize.

I do not think anyone should have someone else to regulate them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Kiefer?

DELEGATE KIEFER: I am glad to find myself in favor of something and on the same side as Delegate Henderson.

This can be regulated by the General Assembly but unlike Delegate Scanlan, I am not so sure that these weighty words of wisdom we are saying here will carry too far.

I hope we do not feel like the flies riding across the prairie on the bull's horn. My, what a big dust we make.

I speak in favor of this.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: I rise to speak in opposition.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: I think the cat was out of the bag when Delegate